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Community *notes*

US 29 Pedestrian Bridge Update

The work to improve the pedestrian bridge that crosses US 29 in Columbia will resume today, resulting in the closure of the bridge until early December.

The County will continue to distribute and honor complimentary bus passes for those travelling between the Oakland Mills Village Center and The Mall in Columbia. Those passes may be obtained by contacting the County's Office of Transportation at 410-313-4312 or by email to transportation@howardcountymd.gov.

For questions or concerns about Capital Project B-3863, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at 410-313-3440 or email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission invites Howard County middle and high school students to participate in the Commission's annual student essay contest. The essay question is "How do you translate Dr. King's vision in today's times?" Submissions should include the student's name, address, telephone number, email address, name of school, and grade. Essays must be between 500-750 words from middle schoolers, and 750-1,000 words for high schoolers.

Email your submissions by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, to SubmissionsMLK@howardcountymd.gov. Cash prizes will be awarded for the top three essays in each category. For more information, call 410-313-6467 or email fsheik@howardcountymd.gov.

Greetings

Halloween was always my children's favorite holiday. Dressing up, being outdoors after dark, knocking on neighbors doors created a night of magic. The tradition and the fun continue this weekend through next week.

Smaykay

The Duffel Bag Project

A week ago, I visited the Maryland American Sewing Guild as they met for a sewing session for The Duffel Bag Project.



Interested in community service projects, this Chapter decided to dedicate their time and talents towards creating handcrafted duffel bags for children entering Foster Care. It is customary for children without

suitcases entering Foster Care to be handed a trash bag for their belongings. No child should have to equate their belongings with trash.

Here's where you can help. This Chapter has committed to sewing 300 bags for children in our area by the end of the year and they need volunteers with some sewing experience to help reach their goal. This project is flexible; if you can't attend a scheduled sewing session, you can make it at home and drop it off or arrange a pickup. If this project is too advanced for your skill set, they're also accepting gender-neutral pillow cases.



For more information, visit MASG's website or contact Carolyn at service@marylandasg.org.

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids, and to help ensure they have a safe holiday, here are some tips from the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#).



- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he or she stumbles or trips.
- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 if they ever have an emergency or become lost.
- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy Halloween!

Public Star Party

Howard Astronomical League (HAL) will hold a Public Star Party on Saturday, October 28 at the HAL Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park in Marriottsville from 6:00 - 11:00 p.m. Celebrate International Observe the Moon Night with telescopes, solar system models, meteorites, and more. See www.howardastro.org for more information.

Support Neighbor Ride at Manor Hill

Enjoy an evening of beer tasting at Manor Hill Brewing on Friday, November 17, 6:30 - 8:20 p.m., and join Neighbor Ride in helping local seniors stay connected to the people, resources, and activities that keep them healthy and make their lives whole. All event proceeds will support Neighbor Ride's volunteer-driven senior transportation program. For more information, visit the [event page](#).

Can't make it to the Beer Tasting, but want to give seniors the gift of independence that Neighbor Ride's transportation program provides? Make a donation at: www.neighborride.org.

Mentors/Tutors Needed

A-OK Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is actively seeing volunteers to serve as mentors and tutors or elementary and middle school age youth in Howard County schools and in community after school programs. Volunteers work with A-OK requires weekday, daytime hours. Volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. The next session will take place on Wednesday, November 1, at 1:00 p.m. at the Hawthorn Center (6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia). Please call 443-895-2457, or email susan@aokmentor.org

Halloween Fun

Get into the spirit (pun intended) with fun events for Halloween:

Time to Sign: Spooky Signs

Thursday, October 26 • 7:00 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.

Learn to sign numbers, colors, and other concepts with Kathy Pongor, a teacher from the Clerc Center at Gallaudet, as she interprets spooky stories into sign at the Savage Branch Library. No registration required.

Ghost Tours

Every Friday and Saturday evening through November

A Howard County tradition, Howard County Tourism & Promotion hosts guided tours through one of the most actively haunted towns on the east coast. Guides recount tales of recent paranormal events at many locations in the Ellicott City Historic District; so many in fact that two separate tours are offered, "[Ye Haunted History of Olde Ellicott City](#)" Ghost Tour Part I & II. The ghost tours are renowned for their uncanny and unearthly fun! Call 410-313-1900 to reserve your place today.

Haunted House at Patapsco Female Institute

Friday, October 27 - 28 • 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Considered one of the most haunted towns in the county, Old Ellicott City has more than its fair share of legends. Live the experience as urban legends come alive this fall at the ruins of the Patapsco Female Institute. Tickets \$10 at the door.

Haunted Hallow's Eve

Friday, October 27 • Various Times

Enjoy Halloween festivities at this annual River Hill tradition. Trick-or-treating at the Village Center shops begins at 5:30 p.m. The Haunted House, crafts and games inside and around the outside of Claret Hall begin at 6:00 p.m. This year's entertainer is Tim Hall, Comedy Magician, Mentalist & Mind Reader. Call 410-531-1749 to request your free tickets.

Howling Halloween Hullabaloo

Saturday, October 28 • 4:00 p.m.

This guided trick-or-treating adventure takes you through the Robinson Nature Center and along portions of its paved and wooded trails. Each stop offers fun, live, interpretation on topics ranging from creepy crawly critters to constellations, to howling and hooting creatures. Healthy treats from MOM's Organic Market and David's Natural Market accompany each stop. For more information, please call 410-313-0400.

Costume Parades

Saturday, October 28 • 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 29 • 2:00 p.m.

Come to Clark's Elioak Farm for spooky costume parades this weekend. Enjoy rides, face painting, a pumpkin patch, and the Enchanted Pine Tree Forest maze. Enjoy CJ's Pit Beef, delicious baked treats from Touche Touchet and fresh local cider.



Give the Gift of Giving

This year, CAC will be serving 1,000 local families with Thanksgiving turkeys and trimmings. CAC currently has secured funding for 560 of the turkeys, with the goal of raising money to purchase the other 440 turkeys. What's their plan? Encourage local friends, families, businesses, and organizations to help reach the goal of \$8,800 as quickly as possible. That's where you come in! Please help spread the word.



[Follow along on social media.](#) [Donate](#) (via credit card, Paypal, or check). [Send a message to Tom Coale](#), the leader of this initiative, if your business would like to host a fundraiser specifically for this program.

Together we can put the "giving" back into Thanksgiving. Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Tiny House Expo

You've seen it on HGTV, now come check out the marvels of small house construction during the Mid-Atlantic Tiny House Expo at the Howard County Fairgrounds in West Friendship, on October 28-29 beginning at 10:00 a.m. Come see everything from tiny houses on wheels to yurts.

Silhouette Stages Presents Cry Baby

It's Romeo and Juliet meets High School Hellcats; this jumping, jiving Tony nominated musical based on the cult classic 1990 John Waters film is pure entertainment! See the show at Slayton House on October 27 & 28, at 8:00 p.m. and October 29 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for children under 10, \$18 for students, seniors 65+ and military personnel, and \$22 for adults.

Fall Job Fair at HCC

Come meet representatives from a wide range of government agencies, businesses, and organizations to discuss employment opportunities, accept applications, and schedule interviews. Admission is free and open to the public. The fair will take place on Friday, October 27, in the Burrill Galleria on the HCC campus from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information, please call 443-518-1340.

Family Fridays Under the Dome

Treat your family to a full-dome movie preceded by a themed, family-friendly planetarium presentation. November's theme is, "Creatures of the Night." Hear the stories behind the mythological beasts that many of our constellations are named after, and enjoy the full-dome feature, "We Are Aliens." Feel free to join us in your Halloween costume! Due to dark

conditions, we cannot seat late arrivals once the show has begun. Please arrive early to be seated. To see a preview of the film, please [click here](#). Ages 5 years and up with an adult. \$6 per person.



Upcoming Events

One-Mile Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, October 28 • 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Gary C. Arthur Community Center

Come dressed in your favorite costume on for a Halloween One-Mile Fun Run/Walk and get ready to do the crab walk and some mummy kicks. This family event promotes exercising together and creating healthy habits all while having a ton of fun. For more information, [visit the event page](#).

Gluten Free/Allergy Friendly Food Drive

Saturday, October 28 • 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Giant Foods in Clarksville

Join the S.A.F.E. Food Pantry at on to collect gluten free and allergy friendly nonperishables for the Howard County Food Bank. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

HC DrugFree Medication Collection

Saturday 28 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Wilde Lake Village Center parking lot

Looking to get rid of old, unwanted, or recalled EpiPens, needles, syringes and medications all in one quick trip without getting out of your vehicle? Join your friends at HC DrugFree's quick and convenient drive-thru collection. Look for volunteers directing traffic around the parking lot. Howard County Police will receive and secure your medications for proper disposal and medical staff will handle your sharps for proper recycling.

Glass Fusing Workshop

Sunday, October 29 • 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hickory Ridge

Create beautiful, wearable pieces of art for yourself or to give as a gift. It will cost \$89; all supplies will be provided. To register, click [here](#) or call 443 518-4404.

Volunteering Made Easy

Wednesday, November 8 • 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Columbia Association Headquarters

Join fellow community members to learn how to identify and participate in volunteer opportunities. For questions, contact Pam at pam@volunteerhoward.org or call 410-715-3179. The session is free but [registration is requested](#).



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